

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated June 15, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14-16 and 23 are amended to correct informalities. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance or appeal, do not require further search and/or consideration, and do not contain new matter. Claims 1-23 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over US Patent No. 6,577,622 to Schuster et al. (Schuster), in view of US Patent No. 6,870,916 to Henrikson et al. (Henrikson). The Office Action took the position that Schuster disclosed all of the features of these claims, with the exception of allocating by means of the server a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call. The Office Action asserted that Henrikson disclosed this feature. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of any of the pending claims.

Claim 1, from which claims 2-11 depend, is directed to a method for administering conferencing resources in a communications system. A first message is transmitted includes a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call. The server allocates a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call. A second message is transmitted from the server to the first terminal that includes

the network address. The communications system includes a plurality of terminals and the conference server.

Claim 12, from which claims 13-23 depend, is directed to a conference server for administering conferencing resources. A receiver unit is configured to receive from a first terminal a first message comprising a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call. An allocation unit is configured to allocate a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call. A transmission unit is configured to transmit to the first terminal a second message comprising the network address. The conference server administers conferencing resources in the communications system, wherein the communications systems includes a plurality of terminals.

As discussed in the present specification, embodiments of the present invention enable the setting up of conference calls on communications systems. The feature of providing a message containing the network address of a conferencing resource is advantageous since it overcomes shortcomings of prior art solutions such as those described in the prior art (see page 2, first full paragraph to page 3, penultimate paragraph of the present application). The Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims recite features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited references.

Schuster is directed to a system and a method for using a portable information device. Schuster describes a number of examples of methods by which conference calls can be set up between three users. The methods are described in the context of the SIP

protocol, in which there are two major architectural elements: the user agent and the network server (column 9, lines 5-6). In Figures 8A-10A, a calling user agent is represented by a data network telephone 208 and a PID 210. In Schuster, three specific embodiments for conference call set-up are discussed. Figures 8A, 9A and 10A and the corresponding portions of the description at column 18, line 32 to column 19, line 25, column 20, line 15 to column 21, line 18 and column 22, line 14 to column 23, line 16 illustrate the details of the methods described in Schuster.

Hendrickson is directed to a multimedia communications system and conferencing arrangements. Specifically, Hendrickson describes a system in which a conference establishment server receives from a first user a request for a conference, the request including details of the required conference such as participants, resources and rules.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest at least the feature of transmitting from the server to the first terminal a second message comprising the network address, as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claim 12.

Schuster (column 9, lines 33-34 of Schuster) relates not to a network address of a conferencing resource but, to a network address of a user. At column 9, lines 28-31 of Schuster, it is described that the user identifiers in SIP requests are known as SIP addresses, and that SIP addresses are referred to as SIP URLs. Subsequently, the redirect servers process an INVITE message by sending back the SIP URL where a callee is reachable. Thus, the SIP URL referred to in Schuster is merely a network address of a user. Further, Hendrickson fails to cure this deficiency.

In the “Response to Arguments” section, the Office Action asserted that “in response to the applicant’s argument that the references fail to disclose show certain features of the applicant’s invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e. transmitting an address of a conferencing resource) are not recited in the rejected claims(s).” Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 clearly recites “allocating by means of a server a network address identifying a resource capable is sustaining the conference call (underline added). This feature thus defines the network address which is referenced in the next feature “transmitting from the server to the first terminal” recited in claim 1. Thus, it is clear that the network address is an address identifying a conferencing resource.

Applicants respectfully submit that because claims 2-11 and 13-23 depend from claims 1 and 12 respectively, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 1 and 12, as well as for the additional features recited in these dependent claims.

Based at least on the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of claims 1-23. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that each of claims 1-23 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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